

EXPLORING IDENTITY THROUGH ART

for ages: 14-19



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Exploring Identity Through Art

Each lesson in this book is dedicated to an artist on the LGBTQIA+ spectrum, spanning various art movements, countries, time periods, and personal styles. Each lesson focuses on one individual and explores their life, artistic style and medium, examples of their art, and an accompanying project inspired by their artwork using materials you can find at home!

This book discusses a wide range of topics addressed in art, from visual aesthetics to culture, mention of sex, gender, history, sexism, and racism. Because of these diverse learning topics, instructors will find content suitable for students of different ages. Younger students may enjoy the lessons on abstract art where they can make vibrant, colorful works. Older students may enjoy learning about the social message and cultural relevancy of the art and can make works inspired by what they learn. It is recommended that instructors and parents review lessons and their respective artists before sharing with a student or child. We invite the instructor or parent/guardian to explore other lessons on our website to better meet the learning goals and needs of the students.

Please note: These lessons are supplemented by (but do not all require) materials accessible through a computer or phone, a printer, and the Internet. A parent or guardian's permission is advised for lessons requiring Internet usage, especially for social media lessons.



CREATING JOURNEYS THROUGH THE ARTS

Follow your creativity and go beyond where the path leads so you can leave a trail to inspire others to express themselves, too!

Preface

We are pleased to present *Exploring Identity Through Art* to take you on a path to transform everyday materials into art, to explore the intersections of art with nature, literacy, technology, theater, music, mindfulness and STEAM and to learn how to use the arts to express your core values. Throughout this journey, we invite you to reflect on the legacy that can be created through the arts.

How to Use Our Online Materials and This Book

Not everyone learns the same way. Some people are more visual, some more musical, some more mathematical¹. Our lessons include symbols at the top of each page that indicate the different learning styles to be found in each project. By pointing out the different ways that a project can be approached, parents and teachers can guide their children to their individual paths to artistic success and ways to express their unique creative voices. The different learning styles and the symbols used to represent them in this book include:



Literacy and Verbal-Linguistic (using words effectively)



Recycling and Naturalistic (responding to nature)



Technology and Logical-Mathematical (reasoning, calculating)



Health and Intra-personal (understanding one's own interests, goals)



Theatre and Bodily-Kinesthetic (using the body effectively and creatively)



Musical-Rhythmic (sensitivity to rhythm and sound)



Multicultural and Interpersonal (understanding, interacting with others)

¹ These learning styles are based on Howard Gardner's discussion of types of intelligences. For more detail, see: Howard Gardner, Frames of Mind: The Theory of Multiple Intelligences (New York: Basic Books, 1983).



The lesson plans are more than just making art objects. They incorporate ideas such as compassion, mindfulness, respect for nature, healthy eating, cooperation, and other ideas for living in a way that contributes to a civil society. The pages are laid out as if you and the class are taking a journey:

- Your Destination: summarizes the outcome of the project
- Travel Kit: list of materials you will need for the project
- On the Path: ideas and directions for each child to make an art object, and ideas to explore
- Group Tour: how to transform the individual process into an interactive and collaborative group experience
- Extend your Journey: vocabulary, helpful references, and links to explore additional ideas

Find ways to express yourself - it's okay to think outside the box!

Knowing that links sometimes become inactive or are changed is beyond our control, and we apologize for the inconvenience. Please check our blog and Instagram:

https://artsphere.org/free-resources/curriculum/ https://instagram.com/artsphereinc/

for more suggestions on creative art projects. All the referenced links in this book have been checked for accuracy.





Abstraction In art, abstraction does not aim to represent a visual reality, but to capture the idea through shapes, colors, forms, and gestures. Dealing with ideas.

Abstract poetry A form of poetry where words are chosen for how they sound rather than just their meaning.

Accordion fold A folding method that uses a series of alternating folds to create multiple panels of similar size.

Afrofuturism A movement across all media that includes futuristic or science fiction themes that incorporate elements of Black history and culture. It is a cultural aesthetic and philosophy of history which delves into the intersection of African culture and technology.

AIDS crisis A period in U.S. history where many people suffered and died from AIDS.

Ambiance Character and atmosphere; mood, character, quality, tone, etc., of an environment.

Amorphic shape An undefined or unnamed shape, blob like.

Aperture In photography, aperture is like the pupil of an eye. It is adjusted to let in different amounts of light depending on the environment in which you are taking pictures.

Art vs. craft Art is expression of emotions, unstructured and open ended, with no limitations. It relies on artistic ability. Craft is a form of work that results in a specified output based on learned skills and techniques.

Blackout poetry A type of poetry where you cross out portions of pre-written text to create a poem.

Capitalism A type of economic system in which a nation's trade and industry is not controlled by the state but rather by private owners for profit.

Choreo-poetry A dramatic expression combining poetry, dance, music, and song, first created in 1975 by Ntozake Shange.

Classical portraiture Artwork emphasizing the face, in relaxed or expressive poses.

Collage Art made by putting different pieces of materials to a backing.

Colonialism The practice of obtaining control over another country (or portion of another country), occupying it with people, and exploiting the area and its people for economic benefit.

Diorama A model representing a three dimensional state or figure, small or large scale exhibition.

Disco A style of pop music popularized in the 70s that was made for dancing and partying.

Drag queen A person who uses hyper feminine clothing and makeup to create and exaggerate female gender signifiers for entertainment.

Embodiment A visual form of an idea or feeling, representation in a tangible way.

Epistolary A book written as through a series of letters.

Fragmentation Breaking into separate parts. For example, breaking into different social groups.

Gender euphoria Feeling joy or comfort when thinking about your gender identity and feeling the urge to make your identity (clothes, language) match.

Gentrification Process where a poorer urban area has changed and the original inhabitants are displaced as wealthier people move in and attract new businesses and improve housing.

Imagism An early 20th century poetry movement that emphasized imagery in clear language; first English language poetry movement. A reaction to traditional Victorian poetry, which had excessive and florid language.

Installation Mixed media constructions designed for a specific place or for a period of time.

Integrate Bringing groups or people that share characteristics together for equal participation; making two or more parts a whole.



ISO In photography, a camera setting that will make a photo brighter or darker. As you increase the ISO number in your settings, you will increase how bright your photograph becomes.

Intersectionality The way race, class, gender and social categorizations all connect in a specific individual or group, to create overlapping systems of discrimination or disadvantage.

Marginalization Treating a person, group, minority or idea as insignificant or unimportant and powerless in a society.

Mental health A person's well-being as related to their emotional and physiological state.

Mixed media painting A technique that combines many different painting, drawing, and other materials or methods into one art piece, as opposed to using a single type of material.

Modernization Adapting something to modern needs or habits, not always positive. It suggests development in society as it adapts to modern practices.

Multimedia storytelling Telling a story through multiple forms of media, mostly interactive.

Natural Hair Movement A movement started in the 1960s meant to encourage and promote those of African descent to wear their natural hair.

Post-colonialism Experience of colonization and its past and recent effects, in post-colonial societies and the global developments that are after effects of empire.

Positive affirmation Statements that declare something to be true, positive phrases; emotional support or encouragement.

Queer Denoting or relating to a sexual or gender identity that does not correspond to established ideas of sexuality and gender, especially heterosexual norms.

Rancheras A music genre originating in Mexico. Its themes include life's passions and sorrows. The songs are usually about love, failed love, national pride, and nature.

Reclamation The process of claiming something back or asserting a right; example: you can take back a slur.

Representation Speaking or acting in place of someone, portrayal of someone/thing in a particular way or as being a certain way.

Safe space A place where people or groups can feel safe from discrimination, criticism, harassment, or physical harm.

Seed sovereignty The farmer's right to have access to, exchange, breed, and save open source seeds which are not patented, genetically modified, owned or controlled by seed giants.

Shutter speed In photography, also known as the exposure time. This setting can be changed to determine how long light is let into the camera's lens, and will make a picture brighter or darker depending on the setting. The longer the shutter speed, the brighter the picture.

Slur A word used against someone of a specific race, condition, sexuality, gender, or illness; an insulting or disparaging remark or innuendo.

Social Identity The part of someone's identity and self-concept that is derived from membership in a social group.

Stonewall Riots June 28th 1969, the NYC police raided Stonewall Inn (a gay club) and caused riots that led to six days of protest and fights with law enforcement. A catalyst for the gay rights movement.

Taboo A social custom that forbids discussion of a particular topic or a restricted practice.

Texture Rub A method of recreating texture that includes placing paper or a similar material over something and then rubbing the paper with a pencil or something that will leave a mark.

Transgender Someone whose gender identity is different from the gender they were thought to be at birth.

Utopia An imaginative society that has nearly perfect qualities and living environments for its city.

Visual Language Communication using visual elements; perception, comprehension of visual cues and meanings.



1. JANELLE MONAE ON POSITIVE AFFIRMATIONS

Travel Kit:

Janelle Monae handout, colorful paint, old T-shirt, cardboard, pencil, paper



Your Destination:

Janelle Monae is a musician, actress and activist who uses her platform as a form of self-expression. Throughout her career in the public eye, she has frequently joked about having an "alter-ego," who is an android. She uses this identity throughout her art as a means of representing the idea of a new "other," - which for Monae can mean feeling anything outside of traditional societal norms. For example, Monae identifies as bisexual and pansexual – identities whose public perception is only now beginning to change - and has used her artforms and alter-ego to express her feelings on these matters among many other things. It is Monae's hope that through her art, other people can connect with her music and feel represented.

Songs to Enjoy:

Home – MJ Rodriguez, Billy Porter, and Our Lady J: https://youtu.be/GR85VlrE7d8
Tightrope – Janelle Monae, featuring Big Boi: https://youtu.be/pwnefUaKCbc
Electric Lady – Janelle Monae: https://youtu.be/JUBMYk
Shame Resurrection – Andrea Di Giovanni: https://youtu.be/30-LtLgiR1s

On the Path:

While making a shirt or sign, let's transform negative words or phrases into positive ones!

Step 1 Find an old shirt, piece of cardboard, or anything else you are allowed to paint on. Now think about a phrase someone uses to put you down, Example: "You're not good enough." How can you change this into a positive affirmation? Come up with one negative phrase and change it into a positive one to be painted.

Step 2 If you are using an old shirt, make sure it is washed so that the paint sticks. Sketch out your phrase's design lightly using a pencil. Be as creative with the design as you'd like. If you'd like, first sketch out your design on a piece of paper.

Step 3 Paint in the letters. If you used a t-shirt, let dry for 24 hours and then heat the shirt with a hairdryer to seal in the paint.

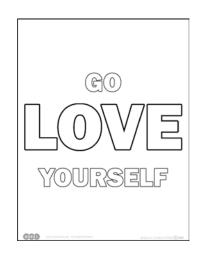
Group Tour:

Show off your new shirt and jam out to some Janelle Monae!

Extend the Journey:

Add to your shirt decorations and words of what you'd like to love more about yourself. Embellish and make it your own! This lesson speaks a lot about positive affirmations. Learn more about the science of them here:

https://positivepsychology.com/daily-affirmations/



linked below for printing or hand-copying

Learn New Vocabulary: accordion fold, installation art, social identity

Resources and Visual Aids: Download our "Go Love Yourself" handout: https://bit.ly/3oTRKUa

Read an interview with Janelle:

https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-features/janelle-monae-frees-herself-629204/

Access Our Webpage on Janelle Monae/handout:

https://artsphere.org/landing-page-lgbt/janelle-monae/



2. ISAAC JULIEN ON INSTALLATION ART



Travel Kit:

paper or cardboard, glue, pencil, markers

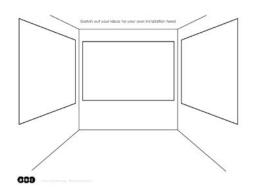
Your Destination:

Isaac Julien is a filmmaker and installation artist born in 1960 in London, where he is now based. Isaac is Black and gay, two pieces of his personal identity that he explores in his work among many other things. While he discusses lots of different topics, his most famous work is a drama-documentary titled, "Looking for Langston" (1989) which explores the poet, Langston Hughes, and the Harlem Renaissance. The story gained a cult following as it combined scripted scenes and real news footage to create a story that celebrates Black and gay identity.

In his work, Isaac tries to blend different types of art together in one space. Particularly, Isaac is known for his blending of film, music, theatre, painting, sculpture, photography, and dance. Many of his famous works include films that take place on multiple screens at once, and are displayed in many museums across the country, including the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York City. Isaac is known for exploring many different themes, often looking back in time to explore how race, sexuality, poetry, culture, architecture and more all mix together with together with each other.

Song to Enjoy:

Faceshopping - SOPHIE: https://youtu.be/es9-P1SOeHU





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On the Path:

Isaac presents his work in unique ways that engage the viewer in a way that is meant to feel new to them. Design your own museum installation on a piece of paper (or the handout linked below) using Isaac's work as inspiration.



Step 1 Pretend that your piece of paper is a room to set up your art installation. Sketch out a design for your installation room. You can use paper and a pencil to sketch out your first draft. How will you use the space on the paper to represent different important parts of your piece? How do you want the different aspects of your work to mix with each other in the space?

Step 2 Using the design you created in step one, fill in your space with your images and artwork. You can make a 3D version of this project by cutting out your artwork and pasting it to the walls of a cardboard box, or by folding paper into a box as well. Feel free to color in your walls however you would like. Experiment with where each piece goes in the room and what gets placed near what else and why. You can even try using other found objects in your home, like toothpicks, to prop up your work on the floor or ceiling of your box.

Group Tour:

Once your art installation piece is made, show it off to your friends and family. Do this activity along with other people as well, and line them up somewhere to make your own mini museum.

Extend the Journey:

The work of Isaac Julien is forever changing, and many artists always feel that in their work it is important to be fluid enough in their work to be able to adapt. Read an article about Julien's work and artistic process at:

https://bit.ly/3BFZYGZ

Learn New Vocabulary: accordion fold, installation art, social identity

Resources and Visual Aids: Learn more about Isaac Julien's history and work: https://www.victoria-miro.com/artists/22-isaac-julien/

Visit Isaac Julien's official website: https://www.isaacjulien.com/

Read an article about Julien's work:

https://studiomuseum.org/article/isaac-julien-against-tides-globalization

Access Our Webpage on Isaac Julien/handout:

https://artsphere.org/landing-page-lgbt/isaac-julien/



3. RIVERS SOLOMON ON INSPIRED WRITING



Travel Kit:

paper (newspaper, construction), markers and pencils

Your Destination:

Rivers Solomon uses fae/faer pronouns and identifies as nonbinary. Solomon is an American author of literary fiction whose debut novel was published in 2017. Solomon received a Bachelor's of Arts in Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity from Stanford University and a Master of Fine Arts in fiction writing from the University of Texas at Austin. Fae has published several books that have received critical acclaim, such as, "An Unkindness of Ghosts" and "Sorrowland." Faer most notable book, "The Deep", is based on a song of the same name, created by the experimental hip-hop trio, clipping., and performed by former Hamilton cast member, Daveed Diggs. The song and story create an interesting utopian underwater civilization built by descendants of pregnant slaves thrown overboard from slave ships. Published in 2019, "The Deep" won the Lambda Literary Award and was nominated for several other awards, including the Hugo award for best science fiction or fantasy book.

Songs to Enjoy:

Cherry - Rina Sawayama: https://youtu.be/wn5YFnrD1u8

Askasaka Sad – Rina Sawayama: https://youtu.be/XSI239RO mc

The Deep - clipping.: https://youtu.be/zT1ujfuXFVo

Flower Child - Nitty Scott, featuring Kendrick Lamar: https://youtu.be/46j_q1Wr0jY

On the Path:

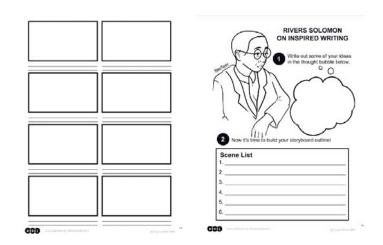
Think of a song that has strong visuals or gives you an idea for a story. It can be about an interesting character, a funny line/lyric, feeling that the song makes you feel, or anything else that you can think of. Using your chosen song as inspiration, create a storyboard for your idea with the help of the instructions below.

Step 1 Brainstorm ideas for what you want in your story. Come up with a set of images, characters, events, etc. This is to help you gather your thoughts before organizing them into a storyboard, so don't be afraid to write down any idea you might have.

Step 2 Now is the time to create your storyboard outline. Depending on how big you want to draw your scenes, use as much white paper as you need. In a line, draw as many rectangles as you will need for your story--try to go with 4-6. These boxes will be where you create your scenes. Leave room at the bottom of each rectangle to write a brief description of what is happening in the scene. Then, using your favorite ideas from step 1, order everything into a scene by scene list for your story.

- First this happens.... (scene 1)
- Then this happens... (scene 2)
- Then this happens... (scene 3)
- Finally this happens... (scene 4)

Step 3 Finally, with the content of your story finished, draw and color the scenes of your story, and add descriptions beneath each scene box to complete your storyboard.



linked below for printing or hand-copying

Group Tour:

Share your storyboard with others and talk about your plot!

Extend the Journey:

Read Solomon's short story "Blood Is Another Word For Hunger" https://www.tor.com/2019/07/24/blood-is-another-word-for-hunger-rivers-solomon/ Develop your story further with character design or a scene.

Learn New Vocabulary: multimedia storytelling, utopia

Resources and Visual Aids:

Rivers Solomon handout:

https://artsphere.org/blog/rivers-solomon-on-inspired-writing/

Visit Solomon's website: https://www.riverssolomon.com/

Read an interview with Solomon:

https://www.lightspeedmagazine.com/nonfiction/interview-rivers-solomon/

Access Our Webpage on Rivers Solomon:

https://artsphere.org/landing-page-lgbt/rivers-solomon/



4. LAETITIA KY ON THE ART OF HAIR

Travel Kit:

wire, yarn, other fabric scraps, pliers, scissors, paper, something to write with

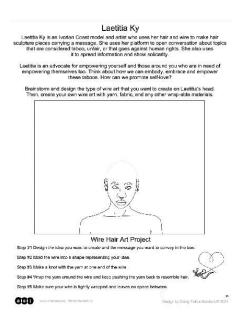


Your Destination:

Laetitia Ky is an Ivorian Coast model and artist who uses wires and her hair to make hair sculpture pieces that are meant to carry a message. She uses her platform online to open conversations on topics that are generally considered taboo - subjects that are divisive or very sensitive and personal to some people. She also uses her presence online to spread information and show solidarity with movements she supports, like the Black Lives Matter movement. Laetitia is an advocate for empowering yourself and those around you who are in need of uplifting. During this activity, think about how we can embody, embrace and empower ourselves and each other.

Song to Enjoy:

Bag of Hammers - Thao and the Get Down Stay Down: https://youtu.be/57OtoBN_Jiq



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On the Path:

How can we promote self-love? After brainstorming, design a piece of wire art that you would want Laetitia to wear. Then, create your own wire art message with yarn, fabric, and any other materials you would like.

Step 1 On a piece of paper, design and draw out the idea you want to create on wire and figure out the message you want to convey to a large audience of people.

Step 2 Now, begin to unravel your wire. Cut, stretch and bend the wire as needed to mold it into your desired letters.

Step 3 Once your shapes have been made, it is time to wrap the wire in yarn to give it a colorful pop! Tie a knot at the end of a piece of your wire. Make sure the knot is tight – if you'd like you can even try to bend the wire around your knot after it is made so that the yarn does not slip off.

Step 4 Begin to wrap the yarn around all of the exposed parts of the wire. Keep pushing the yarn back down the wire to make sure the exposed wire is as completely covered as possible by the yarn.

Step 5 Feel free to add anything else to this project – be as creative as you would like. You can now use some more wire to display your new message somewhere, whether you hang it from a wall or prop it up on a table or shelf.

Group Tour:

Explain to your peers why this topic means so much to you and what message you want to spread with your art.

Extend the Journey:

Though we may not think of it as frequently as other mediums, hair braiding is considered by many to be its own art form. Learn more about the significance of hair braiding throughout history at https://www.byrdie.com/history-of-braids

Learn New Vocabulary: marginalization, natural hair movement, taboo

Resources and Visual Aids:

Laetitia Ky handout: https://artsphere.org/laetitia-ky-handout-revised/

Laetitia Ky's Instagram https://www.instagram.com/laetitiaky/ Laetitia Ky's TikTok https://tinyurl.com/p797fzxw DIY Wire Yarn Video https://youtu.be/AnryJX5IdVc

Access Our Webpage on Laetitia Ky:

https://artsphere.org/landing-page-lgbt/laetitia-ky/



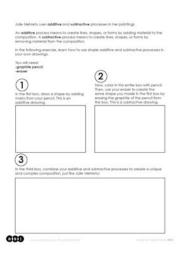
Your Destination:

Born in 1970, Julie Mehretu is an abstract artist from Ethiopia who is known for her many different works. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree from Kalamazoo College, Michigan in 1992 and earned her Master of Fine Arts degree from Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), in 1997. Mehretu is known for being a contemporary visual artist who usually uses acrylic paints and ink to compose her pieces. By playing with the landscape and size of the canvas, Mehretu constructs thought-provoking art meant to speak to the social experience. Her work, while certainly abstract, has titles that explore concrete topics like the effects that African history, capitalism, and climate change have on society.

Songs to Enjoy:

Good Life – Kehlani, featuring G-Eazy: https://youtu.be/FG9M0aEpJGE
Nights Like This – Kehlani, featuring Ty Dolla \$ign: https://youtu.be/l99qCuWx1ml
The Weakness in Me – Joan Armatrading: https://youtu.be/6a8MRbHf5pA
More Than One Kind of Love – Joan Armatrading: https://youtu.be/vsulW5qbXv0





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On the Path:

Typically, Mehretu's paintings are heavily comprised of many different layers. Like Mehretu, create a layered painting that represents the process of something. In the past, she has described her work as if they are maps of a given location. You can use this as inspiration as well.

Step 1 Paint a base color. It can be one solid color, a mixture of many combined, or anything else you can come up with. Now, draw out some sections in pencil, any shape, size, or location in your space on top of the base color. Remember, this is abstract painting, so be as free and loose with your structures as you'd like. Create whatever best represents what you have in mind, but base it on feeling – how a color and idea make you feel, how a broad line versus a soft line make you feel, etc. – instead of working with real structures.

Step 2 Now, take tape and mark out areas that you want to paint, or block out areas you don't. Can be related or unrelated to the pencil lines drawn earlier, do what you think will work best to your feelings.

Step 3 Paint those areas however you'd like and remove the tape. Let dry for a few minutes. Continue adding paint, pencil, doodles, and layering however you want until you are satisfied with the result.

Group Tour:

Share your painting and discuss the additive and subtractive aspects of it. Have someone discuss what they think your painting might mean.

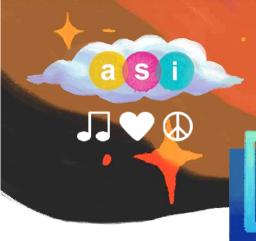
Extend the Journey:

Explore Mehretu's work that is being shown at the Whitney Museum, in New York City https://whitney.org/exhibitions/julie-mehretu#exhibition-artworks

Learn New Vocabulary: abstraction, Afrofuturism, amorphic shape, capitalism, gentrification, mixed media painting

Resources and Visual Aids: Learn more about Julie's life at https://www.theartstory.org/artist/mehretu-julie/life-and-legacy/

Access Our Webpage on Julie Mehretu/handout: https://artsphere.org/landing-page-lgbt/julie-mehretu/



6. CATHERINE OPIE ON PHOTOGRAPHY



camera (can be a phone camera), props



Your Destination:

Catherine Opie was born in Sandusky, Ohio in 1961. Inspired by Lewis Hine, the renowned photographer that helped reform child labor laws, Opie began taking pictures at the age of nine and had her own darkroom at fourteen. This American fine-art photographer examines connections between the mainstream and a marginalized society. Opie creates classically inspired portraits of people who are not typically the subject of such art pieces.

Songs to Enjoy:

Be Sweet – Japanese Breakfast: https://youtu.be/2ZfcZElo6Bw
Boyish – Japanese Breakfast: https://youtu.be/t3bjPGUDI1k

Look Out Mama - Hurray For for the Riff Raff: https://youtu.be/0g9nDsFHERM

Only For Tonight - Pearl Charles: https://youtu.be/Jt0Xa4FRN0o

On the Path:

During the Renaissance, portraits of influential figures were a common way to indicate the person's high social status. You are going to work with someone and help each other create classically inspired portraits. How can you create a classically inspired portrait representing your partner? Use props, posture, composition and lighting to create a classically inspired portrait of your partner.

Step 1 Choose a partner. You will take turns being the subject of the photo and the photographer.

Step 2 Get to know each other, and brainstorm ideas for your portraits together. Think about the location of where you'd like to shoot, and what things you would want in your background. Classical portraits typically have a pretty plain background, since the subject is the main focus of the picture, so be sure to keep that in mind. What props could you use to create an appealing portrait, and how you can represent that your subject's (you partner) character?

Step 3 Now, take pictures of one another. Try taking multiple photos to see what works the best and don't be afraid to try different ways of composing the photo. Ask yourself - what do you want to convey through these pictures? What emotions do you want to represent and how do you want to go about representing them?

Group Tour:

Share these photos online with the rest of your friends, family and classmates. What do they think?

Extend the Journey:

Learn more about Catherine Opie's artwork and how she chooses her career-defining images:

https://i-d.vice.com/en_uk/article/g5gvk7/catherine-opie-interview-2021-life-in-photos

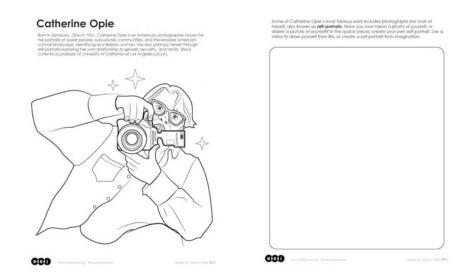
Learn New Vocabulary: classical portraiture, modernization

Resources and Visual Aids: How to take a portrait according to Opie https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-portrait-photographer-catherine-opie

Catherine Opie work catalogue https://www.regenprojects.com/exhibitions/catherine-opie3?view=slider

Access Our Webpage on Catherine Opie/handout:

https://artsphere.org/landing-page-lgbt/catherine-opie/



see above for handouts linked on our webpage for printing or hand-copying



7. PAUL MPAGI SEPUYA ON THE ARTIST AND THE SUBJECT

Travel Kit:

black or white cloth (like a sheet), mirror, camera, light



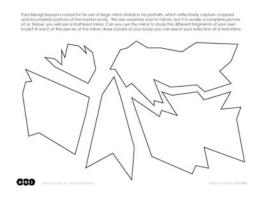
Your Destination:

Paul Mpagi Sepuya is an artist from Los Angeles, CA that explores queer and Black identity. He enjoys portraying the relationship between the artist and the subject in his work. Paul emphasizes the importance of setting up the image, using what one has and what works best for one to create something meaningful. In his work, Sepuya is generally against digital manipulation, such as Photoshop, because it goes against working with the picture in its most raw form. Instead, Sepuya uses camera technology to highlight specific things in his photo's composition, like adjusting the camera ISO, aperture and exposure. Sepuya's photos sometimes include himself as the subject, and feel quite intimate and personal.

Songs to Enjoy:

Stay With Me – Sam Smith: https://youtu.be/pB-5XG-DbAA
I Think (Clean Version) - Tyler the Creator: https://youtu.be/Lwl9NuVcrkk
Jealous – Labyrinth: https://youtu.be/50VWOBi0VFs





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On the Path:

Use the mirror to study the different pieces, or fragments, of your body. Take pictures that capture these fragments to be a part of the whole picture. Use the timer on your phone's camera to capture yourself.

Step 1 Create your own backdrop for these pictures by using a mirror and a white or black cloth. Use the cloth as a backdrop or foreground for your pictures. With the mirror, you will photograph yourself in front of the black or white background.

Step 2 Set your camera on something to place it at the proper height of your portrait. You can use a tripod or whatever else you have available to prop it up. For example, a stack of books or a shelf would work perfectly here.

Step 3 Set up a light source, like a desk lamp, that you can change the position and brightness of in order to play with lighting and shadows of your composition.

Step 4 If you want, include your family members or classmates in your pictures as well, highlighting their face, arms or legs posed alongside your own.

Step 5 Pose for your picture so that only fragments of your body, like your face, arms, or legs, are visible in the photograph.

Group Tour:

Share your photos with friends and family and discuss the process with your peers. Why did you highlight certain parts of your body over others? How do you feel when you look at the pictures?

Extend the Journey:

Continue to play with your setting and experiment with this style of photography. Find ways to push the boundaries and create your own art.

Learn New Vocabulary: ambiance, aperture, exposure, fragmentation, integrate, ISO, representation

Resources and Visual Aids:

Paul Mpagi Sepuya handout: https://artsphere.org/blog/paul-mpagi-sepuya-handouts/

Paul Mpagi Sepuya on the Inherent Intimacy of Photography: https://bit.ly/3bw0AUZ

Meet the Artist: https://www.artbasel.com/news/meet-the-artists-paul-mpagi-sepuya

Access Our Webpage on Paul Mpagi Sepuya:

https://artsphere.org/landing-page-lgbt/paul-mpagi-sepuya/



8. HARMONY HAMMOND ON FEMINIST ART

Travel Kit:

fabric scraps, safety pins, scissors, something heavy (to keep fabric in one place)



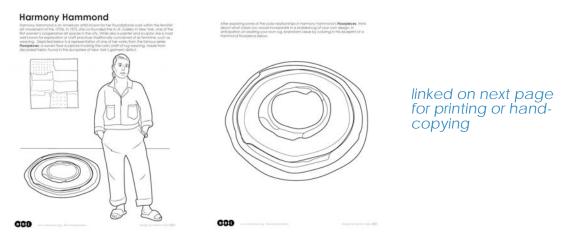
Your Destination:

Harmony Hammond is a queer female artist and activist who gained prominence in the 1970's for her outstanding work and determination. She was one of the creators of A.I.R, which was the first women's run art gallery where groups of artists could come together to show off and sell their work. Heavily influenced by the Stonewall riots in 1969, Hammond champions the feminist movement in her artwork, and typically turns away from traditional art materials, like paint, as a means of representing a path that she is pioneering herself. She is known for her abstract art, and offers visibility within a new social perspective that confronts gender, class, and sexual orientation.

Songs to Enjoy:

Castle - Halsey: https://youtu.be/Vk0xkd8qs9l

Nightmare (Clean Version) - Halsey: https://youtu.be/VNRIhMQP0yw



On the Path:

Hammond did various pieces that turned everyday items into beautiful works of art that represent modern lesbian and feminist philosophies. Emulating Hammond's work, make a rug that represents you and your ideals.

Step 1 Find four different pieces of scrap fabric that you want to use in your rug and cut them up into strips approximately one to two inches wide. These scraps need to be as big as you want the size of your rug to be.

Step 2 Once you have the strands, tie a knot connecting them together. Any knot will do.

Step 3 Weigh down the knotted section of your scraps and begin braiding. Use can use a partner, a heavy book or anything else heavy to hold the scraps in place. To do this, lay scraps out flat, take the left most piece and wrap it underneath the scrap to its right, over top of the one next to that one, and underneath the last remaining scrap.



8. HARMONY HAMMOND ON FEMINIST ART (CONTINUED)



On the Path (continued):

Step 4 Repeat step three until you have at least 8-10 inches of braided fabric. Next, fold the braided fabric into the shape you want and use a safety pin or weight to help the fabric retain its shape.

Step 5 Continue braiding as you did in steps three and four with an additional fold being made into the rug itself. Reference the accompanying YouTube video below for additional help. Now you should see the rug starting to come together. Tip: having a safety pin attached in your fabric strands may making folding the fabric into the rug easier.

Step 6 As you work and add to the rug, gently tug at the sides to smooth the braid out and make the rug flatter and less rigid.

Step 7 Once one of your fabric strands becomes too short to braid, take another cut fabric strip and cut two slits into it, one on each end of the strip. Do so by folding one fabric end on top of itself and making a little cut with a pair of scissors. Run the new fabric through the hole and into the braided piece, and on the new fabric run one end through the slit of the other and pull it tight. It should hook together and allow you to continue braiding.

Step 8 Sometimes a strand may get out farther than the others. To avoid a bunching issue, run it through the same piece of the rug as you did the previous braid. Tip: There may be bits of fabric poking out of the rug giving it a texture you may not want. If you go to cut these pieces make sure to be careful as to not accidently cut a knot and unfold a part of your rug.

Group Tour:

Walk around and look at each other's rugs. What are they made from? Which is your favorite and why?

Extend the Journey:

Learn more about the Stonewall Riots and why they were so influential in Hammond's work https://www.history.com/topics/gay-rights/the-stonewall-riots and learn more about her work here, as well as in the resources and visual aids tab below https://www.artnews.com/art-news/artists/harmony-hammond-12855/

Learn New Vocabulary: art vs. craft, Stonewall Riots, visual language

Resources and Visual Aids: Visit Hammond's website and view her work at http://www.harmonyhammond.com/Harmony%20Hammond_Material_Witness.html

Braid your own no-sew rug with this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YADYD28wIWU

Access Our Webpage on Harmony Hammond/handout:

https://artsphere.org/interactive-programs/mlk-day-of-service/harmony-hammond/



9. SALMAN TOOR ON VULNERABILITY

Travel Kit:

box of some kind, scissors, glue, paper, pencil, anything to decorate your diorama with



Your Destination:

Prevalent in Salman Toor's work is a sense of having a thriving private life turned public. He is celebrated for his ability to depict scenes where you feel like you're almost intruding on the intimate energy and action within his work. Born in Pakistan in 1983, Toor is a gay painter and writer who currently lives and works in New York. Toor, whose work resembles a modern take on more classical artwork, is continuing to gain fame. In April of 2021 Toor opened his first ever solo exhibit, titled *How Will I Know*, at the Whitney Museum in New York.

Songs to Enjoy:

How Will I Know? - Whitney Houston: https://youtu.be/m3-hY-hlhBg

Blacklisted - Sateen: https://youtu.be/Y6UoO6GsnE0

F9mily (You & Me) - Lil Nas X: https://youtu.be/AG-UjPkeJgl

On the Path:

Salman Toor shows vulnerability in his work, and often depicts himself in his own safe spaces, like his bedroom. Create a diorama of what your safe space looks like and share it with everyone.

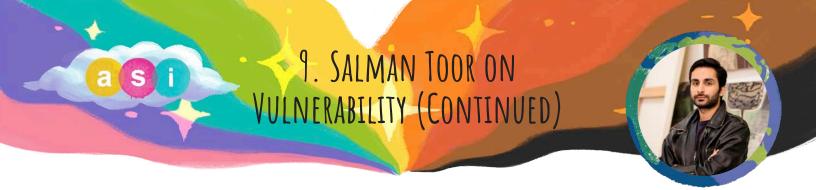
Step 1 Brainstorm what you want your diorama to look like and what materials you'll need. Sketch out your idea and label what materials will make up what elements of the space you create.

Step 2 Next prepare your diorama housing. Your housing can be a cardboard box, jar, or anything else you can think of. You need to make the housing space a place to work out of and to be presentable, so properly clean and adjust this space as needed.

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Step 3 Line the interior or exterior of the box with paint or patterned paper to get an appealing design.

Step 4 While allowing that to dry, start constructing the objects that will be placed within the diorama. Focus on the bigger pieces of your diorama.

Step 5 Once your housing is dried begin adding the decorations to your diorama and creating your space.

Step 6 Finally, fine tune all of the details until the diorama looks just how you it does in your mind.

Group Tour:

With a partner you are comfortable with, draw or paint yourself within your own safe space, and share your art with each other. Then, discuss what your safe spaces mean to you.

Extend the Journey:

Listen to Toor speak on pieces in his exhibition "How Will I Know" here:

https://whitney.org/audio-guides/64?

Explore Toor's exhibit: https://whitney.org/exhibitions/salman-toor

Read an article about Toor's journey:

https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/23/arts/design/salman-toor-whitney-museum.html

Learn New Vocabulary: diorama, safe space

Resources and Visual Aids: Example of a cardboard box diorama:

https://youtu.be/jVgqNdvRv4Y

Luhring Augustine's gallery website where you can view Toor's work: https://www.luhringaugustine.com/artists/salman-toor#tab:thumbnails

Access Our Webpage on Salman Toor/handout:

https://artsphere.org/landing-page-lgbt/salman-toor/



10. ANGEL SHANEL EDWARDS ON EMBODIMENT



space to move around in, comfortable/loosefitting clothes



Your Destination:

Angel Shanel Edwards is a Philadelphia-based artist of many talents. They are most prominently a dancer, but they've also dabbled in painting, poetry, photography, and more. Edwards is a first generation Jamaican-American and identifies as nonbinary. They have received a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Temple University and are currently working out of Philadelphia as a freelance artist. Edwards is held in high esteem, most recently being awarded the 2020 Eva Yaa Asantewaa Grant for Queer Women(+) Dance Artists.

Song to Enjoy:

Found My Friends - Hayley Kiyoko https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZK-ju8ye04

On the Path:

Angel Shanel Edwards aims for healing and cultivating community in their work, which is mainly choreography and choreo-poetry. They create with an understanding for the spiritual. Heal yourself with this meditation exercise.

Step 1 Stand in a position that is comfortable for you. Think of something peaceful, like a wind chime returning to its still point.

Step 2 Reflect on how your body is positioned. Make sure to keep your entire body relaxed and free from strain. Position your feet shoulder width apart and take a slow deep breath as you find your center.

Step 3 Now that you have found your center, you are going to gently tap the skin around your body in order to stimulate your nerves. Simple, gentle taps with your fingertips or knuckles will do. Tap as follows; your feet, outside of legs, down the front and inside of legs, up along the back side of legs, hips, around ribs, sternum, collarbone, arms, shoulders, ears and ending with chin.

Step 4 Stretch out arms and shake out your hands and body. This is called shaking off the dust.



Group Tour:

Introduce this exercise to your friends or family members. Talk about how your body feels after "shaking off the dust." Have them do the lesson along with you, and guide them if needed.

Extend the Journey:

Watch Angel Shanel Edwards perform in the choreographed poem, *Blessed Body, Ache*: https://vimeo.com/354440772

Learn New Vocabulary: choreo-poetry, embodiment

Resources and Visual Aids: Visit Angel Shanel Edwards's website and view their work: https://angeledwardsart.com/performance-work

Access Our Webpage on Angel Shanel Edwards/handout: https://artsphere.org/landing-page-lgbt/shanel-edwards/



see above for handout linked on our webpage for printing or hand-copying





Your Destination:

Hilda Doolittle is an acclaimed writer that is most well known for her abstract, highly visual poetry. Born in Bethlehem, PA, the bisexual poet was first published thanks to a friend she met in college who had sent in some poems to Poetry magazine under the name of H.D. which she took as a pen name. It wasn't until Doolittle had her first volume of verse published in 1916 that she was recognized as a major voice of the avant-garde imagist movement. Doolittle's poems came from the unique perspective of the public and private lives of women in a post-war setting.

Songs to Enjoy:

The Body Is A Blade - Japanese Breakfast https://bit.ly/3BCE0EW
Diving Women - Japanese Breakfast https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5XwkEBZ f8
The Woman In Your Life Is You - Alix Dobkin https://bit.ly/3BGk1VO
A Woman's Love - Alix Dobkin https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fw7LK3ruLXc

On the Path:

The work of Hilda Doolittle is very personal and descriptive in its scenery. Create a piece of art that will help you create your own descriptive/abstract poem.

Step 1 Decorate a piece of paper with a place that inspires you and makes you feel free whether that's the forest, beach, bedroom, etc. The choice is all yours.

Step 2 Write some adjectives to describe how you have been feeling lately. Stressed, tired, anxious, excited? Then write how that place makes you feel.

Step 3 Using your adjectives and art as a visual guide, compose your poem. If you get stuck, find a feeling you wrote down that sticks out to you or focus on a piece of your art that you enjoy. Revise your poem as needed. The more involved you get in your work, the better it will be.





	in the box below.					
	Write some ad how you're fee		400 the		jectives for ho drew makes	
a	Use the adje	ativas from S	Stop 2 to 4			
•	Ose the adje	cuves from s	step 2 to t	ompose yo	ar poem.	

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Group Tour:

With a partner, have one person write a sentence, and then hand it off to a partner to write another. Continue this until you have a story or poem you are both happy with.

Extend the Journey:

Learn more about the life of H.D. at https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/h-d and read some of her work here: https://bit.ly/3JxqjsO

Learn New Vocabulary: abstract poetry, imagism movement, mental health

Resources and Visual Aids:

Hilda Doolittle handout: https://artsphere.org/blog/hilda-doolittle-on-imagist-poetry/

Tips for writing poetry:

https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/grammar-rules-and-tips/tips-on-writing-poems.html

Access Our Webpage on Hilda Doolittle:

https://artsphere.org/landing-page-lgbt/hilda-doolittle/



12. ASSOTTO SAINT ON CREATING CHANGE WITH ART



paper, markers, pencil, scissors, glue



Your Destination:

Assotto Saint (formerly, Yves François Lubin) was a gay Haitian born poet that fell in love with the United States after a trip exposed him to men in feminine clothing. Saint was captivated by the freedom of the United States as compared to his native home, and later moved to the U.S. with his mother. Eventually he would meet his partner, composer Jaan Urban Holmgren, and the two worked together on a variety of projects, including an electronic band named Xotika. The culmination of their work eventually resulted in the duo forming a theater company called Metamorphosis Theatre, that dedicated itself to exploring the Black and gay experience. Much of their work was also used as an activism conduit for causes like AIDS awareness and racial discrimination.

Songs to Enjoy:

Love of My Life - Queen https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUJkCXE4sAA
I Want to Break Free - Queen https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4Mc-NYPHaQ
Don't Stop Me Now - Queen https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HgzGwKwLmgM
Take The A Train - Billy Strayhorn and Duke Ellington https://bit.ly/3JLBHS9
Forever Gay - Xotika https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H51iA5B7-fk

On the Path:

When Saint saw problems, he sought out solutions. One of which was giving a voice to gay poets with the creation of Galiens Press. Create your own publishing company and create a poem showcasing what kind of works you would publish.

Step 1 Design your own publishing company. Decide what your company would be called, what kinds of books would you publish, and what stories you would tell.

Step 2 Come up with a logo for your publishing company. Design a logo that describes part of who you are or what you want to represent your company.

Step 3 List all of the strongest emotions you have ever felt. They do not have to be in any particular order, just whatever comes to mind.

Step 4 Now, begin to write a poem or short story that your company would publish.

Step 5 Fold your finished piece into a booklet and put your title and logo on the cover.

Group Tour:

Share your booklets with the class and talk with your peers about your respective publishing companies. What kind of stories will they publish? Why did you choose this name and logo for your company?

Extend the Journey:

Saint lived a fascinating life. Read more about it here: https://www.makingqueerhistory.com/articles/2020/8/15/assotto-saint-part-i and try to think about how in you can make a difference in your own life.

Learn New Vocabulary: AIDS crisis

Resources and Visual Aids: Read about Assotto's legacy written by a friend of his: https://bit.ly/3vFGqaF

Learn more about the AIDS epidemic art movement:

https://nbcnews.to/2ylwqNv https://bit.ly/3JDPQkc

Access Our Webpage on Assotto Saint:

https://artsphere.org/landing-page-lgbt/assotto-saint/



13. ALICE WALKER ON STORYTELLING

Travel Kit:

black marker or colored pencil, sheet of paper



Your Destination:

Alice Walker is the youngest of eight children and was born to sharecroppers in Georgia. Never wanting their children to work in the fields, Walker's parents encouraged her writing. Eventually, this led Walker to a successful literary career, including published works like the epistolary, *The Color Purple* (1982) which is framed around letters to God. Additionally, at seventy- seven, she continues to have a lively career as an activist fighting against injustices all over the globe. She has faced challenges in her life, like racial discrimination, and even becoming blind in one eye from a BB gun accident with her brother. Despite her hardships, Walker has persevered and had a world-renowned career as an excellent writer. Walker is a revered Pulitzer Prize winning author who has been a vocal advocate for people of all sexualities.

Song to Enjoy:

More Than One Kind of Love - Joan Armatrading: https://bit.ly/30Ujfri

On the Path:

Your handout is an excerpt from the novel *Now Is The the Time To Open Your Heart*. Create a blackout poem by crossing over portions of texts to create a piece of poetry, like a letter to someone that has had information redacted.

Step 1 Read the excerpt from, Now Is the Time to Open Your Heart by Alice Walker by using the link in our "Resources and Visual Aids" section below to see the excerpt online (it will be the first paragraph on the page). Print out this page.

Step 2 As you are reading, lightly circle or highlight the words or phrases you might want to use in your poem.

Step 3 Once you've skimmed over the entire excerpt, go back through the text and boldly box the words you are keeping in your poem with a pen, a sharpie, or a dark pencil.

Step 4 Black out the rest of the excerpt with a black sharpie.

Step 5 Read through your final poem, and try to sketch out a few images from your newly created work.

Group Tour:

Read each other's poems out loud. What makes them unique? Were there any words or phrases that you and other people used?

Extend the Journey:

Learn more about Alice Walker/her list of works: https://www.biblio.com/alice-walker/author/248

Learn New Vocabulary: blackout poem, epistolary

Resources and Visual Aids: Read an excerpt from *Now is the Time to Open Your Heart* to create your poem with: https://bit.ly/3vFR3Si

Access Our Webpage on Alice Walker:

https://artsphere.org/landing-page-lgbt/alice-walker/



14. CHEYNE GALLARDE ON COMIC ART

Travel Kit:

paper, scissors, tape, markers, paint, crown decorations, handouts

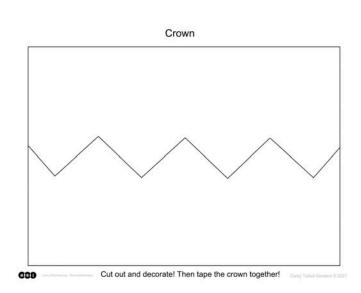


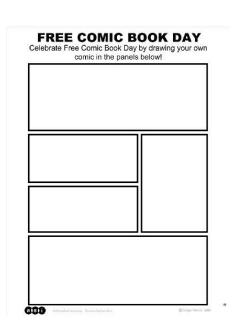
Your Destination:

Cheyne Gallarde is a gay artist who was born and raised in Hawaii. Before becoming a famous illustrator, known for his works that depict drag queens in the style of vintage comic books, Gallarde was an award winning fashion photographer. He enjoys his work immensely, and has recently even won an Advertising Award for his illustrations for the MTV Music Awards. Gallarde is still young, and his art has taken him on many different journeys to form a legendary career that is far from over.

Song to Enjoy:

Crown - Andrea Di Giovanni https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lh6bAxVLwMQ





handouts linked on next page for printing or hand-copying

On the Path:

Cheyene Gallarde is now most prominently known for his artwork that uses drag queens as the subject. Feel like royalty by making your very own crown.



Step 1 Use a piece a paper to make a paper crown. Starting with the paper in the portrait position, fold the paper vertically three times. Cut a triangle out of the folded edge of the paper and tape the resulting pieces together. Use the "How to make a Paper Crown" link below for a more detailed explanation.

Step 2 Decorate your crown with your birthstone or favorite gem. You can use the link in the "Find resources and visual aids" section to help find a shape for your gemstone.

Step 3 Make any other changes to the crown to have it represent you.

Group Tour:

Gallarde's illustrations are drawn in the style of vintage comic books. With a partner, find a work of his that you both like, and write a comic strip for it. Then, draw out your panels and color it in if you'd like.

Extend the Journey:

If you are interested in Gallarde's style and work, watch a TED Talk given by Gallarde here: https://youtu.be/uJZWcKOIZMo

Learn New Vocabulary: drag queen

Resources and Visual Aids:

How to make a Paper Crown handout:

https://artsphere.org/blog/paper-crown-handout/

Free Comic Book Day: https://artsphere.org/blog/free-comic-book-day/

View more of Gallarde's work: https://bit.ly/3Ss3qUl

Interview: https://www.pride.com/identities/2020/9/25/20-queer-qs-cheyne-gallarde

Find different ways of drawing shapes of gemstones: https://artsphere.org/blog/birthstone-art-project/

Access Our Webpage on Cheyne Gallarde:

https://artsphere.org/landing-page-lgbt/cheyne-gallarde/



15. MICKALENE THOMAS ON MESSAGES THROUGH MIXED MEDIA



Travel Kit:

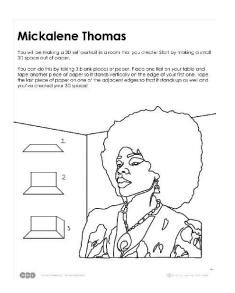
paper, pencil or marker, fabric, paint, other found materials to decorate with

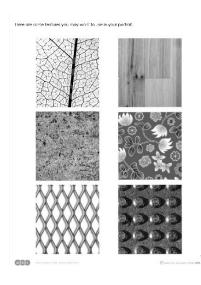
Your Destination:

Mickalene Thomas is a renowned artist most notably known for her vibrant works that showcase Black women's power and femininity. Thomas uses mixed media art to explore forms of beauty outside of societal norms, and draws inspiration from the Impressionist art movement. The eyes of Thomas' subjects are often focal points in her layered pieces, connecting themes of the female gaze and the many layers of the self. Thomas has worked hard to send her message, having a BA in Fine Arts from Pratt Institute and a MA in Fine Arts from Yale University. Thomas' work has been exhibited all across the United States, and includes art of influential people, such as Michelle Obama.

Song to Enjoy:

Pa'lante- Hurray for the Riff Raff https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LilVDjLaZSE





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On the Path:

Inspired by Thomas's work, create a self-portrait collage with found materials. Try to find different textures, patterns, etc., to complete your artwork.

Step 1 Think of the objects, patterns, and materials around you – objects like magazine cut outs, drawings, texture rubs, and different art mediums (pencil, paint, markers, etc.) are all good places to start. Get creative and gather materials to make your self-portrait.

On the Path (continued):

Step 2 Once you have your materials, start building the environment for your portrait. Think about how you want to incorporate yourself into the image. If you'd like, think of this as an album cover. Cut and glue everything onto a piece of paper for your background.

Step 3 Now, insert yourself into the image. Use your found materials to draw, cut and paste everything together into an image of yourself in this environment.

Group Tour:

If you feel comfortable, share with everyone the little details you added to the environment to reflect your space. Talk about why you used certain items for certain parts of the image.

Extend the Journey:

Learn more about her work: https://americanart.si.edu/artist/mickalene-thomas-29819

Learn New Vocabulary: collage, texture rub

Resources and Visual Aids: More info about Mickalene Thomas: http://www.artnet.com/artists/mickalene-thomas/biography

Access Our Webpage on Mickalene Thomas/handouts: https://artsphere.org/landing-page-lgbt/mickalene-thomas/





Your Destination:

Chavela Vargas was born in Costa Rica, but Mexico is her home. In her ninety-three years, she became legendary, thanks in no small part to a variety of rumors she herself helped to spread. Some of these rumors, about Vargas' love life, were confirmed in 2002 when at the age of eighty-one, Vargas publicly announced she identified as lesbian. In her early years, Vargas struggled because her family disapproved of her chosen path in life, and tried to keep her from pursuing her singing career. At seventeen she made her way to Mexico and made a living by singing on streets and at bars. She sang rancheras music, a genre of Mexican music that explores the heart and its sorrows. Even though it was a traditionally male scene, Vargas broke barriers and soon became a household name.

Song to Enjoy:

La Llorona - Chavela Vargas https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwNBa40y2oA
Tu Falta de Querer - Mon Laferte https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5R1RGl4WQP8
Sávila - Sávila https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5R1RGl4WQP8
Sávila - Sávila https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5R1RGl4WQP8
Sávila - Sávila https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQnNY8zMihs
Paloma Negra - Chavela Vargas https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNXwPZ77oF0

On the Path:

Reflect on what you like to show to others, and what you are not ready to share with the world yet.

Step 1 Refer to lesson 2 for instructions on how to make a box. Decorate the inside of your box with things that represent aspects of yourself that that not a lot of people know about you. What are some things that you would like to share with the world, but might not have done so yet? This part of the box can be shared later if you'd like, but can also be closed in by the lid of the shoebox.

Step 2 Decorate the outside of your box with parts of you that are most prominent. What do you think your defining traits are to your friends and family?

Step 3 If you feel comfortable, choose something on the inside of your box that you willing to share, and pin it to your sleeve.

Share with your peers anything that you are ready to talk about. Ask each other questions. Talk about how it makes you prideful, or more unique.

Extend the Journey:

Write a self-reflection journal entry about the things on the inside and outside, and why they make you who you are.

Learn New Vocabulary: rancheras

Resources and Visual Aids: *Mexico's Majestic Lesbian Chanteuse, Chavela Vargas*: https://bit.ly/3BG4qFP

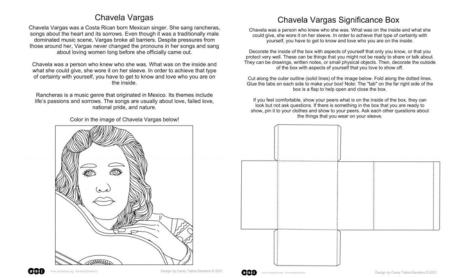
Learn more about Ranchera music:

https://www.donquijote.org/mexican-culture/traditions/ranchera-music/

Access Our Webpage on Chavela Vargas/handouts:

https://artsphere.org/landing-page-lgbt/chavela-vargas/

see above for handouts linked on our webpage for printing or hand-copying





17. SYLVESTER ON BEING YOURSELF

Travel Kit:

scissors, glue, tape, colored pencils, markers, glitter, handout



Your Destination:

Simply put, Sylvester is a disco icon. He was a songwriter who wrote about love and identity. His top hit, "You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)," talks about how hitting the dance floor and moving to his rhythm made him feel even more like his true self. When his parents found out he was gay at age fifteen, Sylvester moved out of his house, to go live with his grandmother, who accepted Sylvester for exactly who he was. Never afraid to express his identity, he used clothing as a means of expression, wearing a blue chiffon dress for his graduation picture. Sylvester never felt the need to be boxed into a label - to him, he was always just Sylvester. During his lifetime, other people tried pinning him as a drag queen or as transgender when those identities were generally perceived in a more negative light than today, but at the end of the day Sylvester didn't pay attention to labels - he was just being himself.

Song to Enjoy:

You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real) - Sylvester https://bit.ly/3P1oOnW
Funky Town - Lipps Inc. - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVwiixXViT0
Groove Is In The Heart - Dee Lite https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=etviGf1uWlg
Can't Get Enough of Your Love Babe - Barry White https://bit.ly/3oZkhHQ
Time (You and I) - Kjruangbin https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oc50wHexbwg
Memory Box - Peter Cat Recording Co. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ob0J3gi6b8

On the Path:

Using the handout linked on the next page, cut out a paper doll and create a wardrobe for them that expresses your most unique and honest sense of fashion and identity.

Step 1 Using scissors, cut out a paper doll with the base, the stand, and the clothing stencils from the handout. Cut along the dotted line on the base and on the stand. Fold the stand in half, along the solid line.

Step 2 Attach the stand on to the base of the doll using tape or glue.

Step 3 With the clothing stencils provided, design whatever kind of clothing you want. Use whatever you'd like to design these stencils.

Step 4 After designing your clothing, cut them out along with the gray tabs and paste them onto your paper doll.

Share with your peers how this outfit expresses part of your identity.

Extend the Journey:

How would you plan a party that celebrated all individuals' differences?

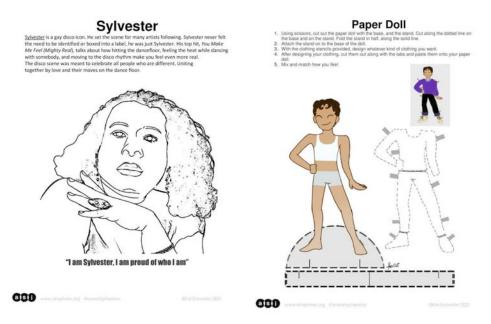
Learn New Vocabulary: disco, transgender

Resources and Visual Aids: Love Me Like You Should: The Brave and Bold Sylvester - interviews with Sylvester and more background on his music: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o3q-cKZX2Oq

Access Our Webpage on Sylvester:

https://artsphere.org/landing-page-lgbt/sylvester/

see above for handouts linked on our webpage for printing or hand-copying





18. JAY SOM ON SELF DISCOVERY

Travel Kit:

paper, pencil, construction paper, scissors, glue



Your Destination:

Melina Mae Duterte, better known by her stage name Jay Som, is a musician who writes about self-discovery, reflection and her racial identity. Duterte has said while she was growing up that she didn't really see people like her that she could look up to, so she has tried to become a role model for generations after her. In her art, Jay Som is highlighting the struggles of marginalized people with her music, as well as by touring with other prominent Asian American musicians, such as Mitski.

Song to Enjoy:

A little lost - Arthur Russel https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXH1Fk-EDFo
You did it yourself - Arthur Russel https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGtQASRq2Ak
Lipstick Stains - Jay Som https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fY4QtsidKp8

On the Path:

Music is broad and varied in terms of both styling and meaning. Take your favorite songs and mash up their lyrics to create a new one that is all about you.

Step 1 Think about your favorite songs and pull some lyrics you like from them. Write the lyrics down on individually torn pieces of paper.

Step 2 Think about an important phase of moment in your life that you want to capture in your song. Find songs that talk about a moment like this and pull some lyrics from them as well.

Step 3 Now look over your selected lyrics and choose what you want to keep in your song and put them whatever order you like. To make the song flow better, add extra lyrics of your own if you'd like.

Step 4 Come up with a name for your song and write it down on the construction paper. Then take your torn pieces of paper and glue your lyrics onto the paper in the order they are meant to be sung.

Step 5 Use the things surrounding you to create a beat and sing your song.

Go over each other's lyrics and talk about why you picked them. If you feel comfortable enough, you could also perform your song.

Extend the Journey:

Learn more about Jay Som by reading this interview: https://www.them.us/story/jay-som-anak-ko-interview

Learn New Vocabulary: marginalization

Resources and Visual Aids:

Interview with Jay Som: https://www.thefader.com/2019/09/10/jay-som-anak-ko-interview

Learn more about Mitski and her influence: https://n.pr/2DJBONK

Access Our Webpage on:

https://artsphere.org/landing-page-lgbt/jay-som/



19. PATRICK KELLY ON FASHION INCLUSIVITY

Travel Kit:

old fabric, old clothes, scissors, string, glue, bleach, decorations (such as sequins), paper clip



Your Destination:

Patrick Kelly's journey into the fashion world started at an early age, when he would read fashion magazines brought home by his mother. After noticing that Black women were not represented in the magazines, Kelly vowed to make clothes for Black women to model, with the goal of being featured in Vogue magazine. After deciding college wasn't right for him, Kelly moved to Atlanta and opened up a store inside of a beauty salon where he sold clothing of his own design. Kelly eventually tried fashion school in New York, but did not enjoy his time there. Kelly then moved to Paris, where he was the first American to be accepted into the French Chambre Syndicate du Prêt-à-Porter, a prestigious French ready-to-wear association. Working with the goal of making you smile, his designs are known for their sense of humor and social commentary, while his designs are presented in a way that is meant to be inclusive women of all body types.

Song to Enjoy:

Get Sum - MikeQ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXkArg6ekUk
D.A.R.L.I.N.G - MikeQ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1ZrneUO5nk

On the Path:

Fashion design can be turning something old into something unique and beautiful. Take an old piece of clothing and change it into something entirely new with this activity.

Step 1 Using the videos provided in the "Resources and Visual Aids" section, come up with a way to change your article of clothing.

Step 2 If you mimic any of the alterations seen in the videos, make sure that you follow them closely as to not ruin your clothing. If you don't like any of the tips provided do not feel obligated to use them. This is your design, so be creative.

Step 3 Once you have made your alterations, focus on the small details and embellish the final product with paint, glitter, or anything else you want.

Group Tour:

Once everyone has designed their clothing, put on a fashion show for everyone to showcase their own style.

Extend the Journey:

Learn more about Patrick Kelly's clothing and view a Philadelphia exhibition showcasing his work: https://www.philamuseum.org/exhibitions/799.html

View his clothes on the runway: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OBCBnFicOmU

Learn New Vocabulary: gender euphoria

Resources and Visual Aids: Videos showcasing different ways to alter and change your clothing without needing to know how to sew:

https://youtu.be/ez3MEqXeLsU
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NuH4ilaFof4

Access Our Webpage on Patrick Kelly:

https://artsphere.org/landing-page-lgbt/patrick-kelly/



20. RICHARD FUNG ON ACTIVIST FILMMAKING

Travel Kit:

construction paper, pencils, colored pencils, markers



Your Destination:

Richard Fung is a Canadian filmmaker, writer and professor. Born in Trinidad, he is also openly gay and has spoken about a plethora of subjects, like such as sexuality, Asian Colonialism, immigration, racism, homophobia, AIDS, and even his own family. Currently, Fung is a professor at the Ontario College of Art and Design University, teaching courses in Integrated Media and Art and Social Change. As a filmmaker, Fung has directed documentaries through his lens as a Chinese Trinidadian-Canadian about homophobia, the AIDS epidemic and more, usually with the goal of promoting activism for whatever topic he is exploring. Notably among his work is the documentary, "Orientations," which is a groundbreaking documentary on the struggle of lesbian and gay Asians to gain visibility and shape public perception of themselves.

Song to Enjoy:

Kindness be Conceived - Thao & The Get Down Stay Down https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLQA_YtU9Tg

On the Path:

Fung made a lot of works on things that matter to him including his own family history. Learn about your family history, their experiences, and create art based on those experiences.

Step 1 Draw yourself and your family as you see them. What stereotypes/tropes do you think your family fit into? How does that make you feel? Are there good ones? Are there bad ones?

Step 2 Interview different members of your family and learn about your family's history. Learn as much as you can about your history and the people that came before you. Take notes of everything you learn.

Step 3 Now, draw you and your family again, trying to reflect on what you've learned from them.

Step 4 Compare your new piece with your original one and see what has changed. Did you add anybody? Did the environment you drew your subjects in change? Reflect on why you made these changes and how it affects or challenges the stereotypes you might have thought that your family fit into.

Interview other people on their art pieces and how they changed. Did any of them make similar changes to their paintings? Are there similarities between their history and yours?

Extend the Journey:

Using the provided link, read about Fung's many works and their reviews to see if any of them are interesting to you, and if they are, use YouTube to watch clips from them http://www.richardfung.ca/index.php?/scv/reorientations-2016/

Learn New Vocabulary: colonialism, intersectionality, post-colonialism

Resources and Visual Aids:

Read about Fung's work on his website:

http://www.richardfung.ca/index.php?/scv/orientations-lesbian-and-gay-asians/

Learn more about Richard Fung in this article:

https://www.caribbean-beat.com/issue-141/richard-fung-no-easy-readings#axzz6zCeUzA92

Access Our Webpage on Richard Fung:

https://artsphere.org/landing-page-lgbt/richard-fung/



Art Sphere Inc. (ASI), founded in 1998, provides meaningful free arts programs for underserved populations in an effort to engage the creativity in communities, empower neighborhoods, explore the positives in peoples' lives, and heal the mind, body, and spirit through the arts.

Working with hundreds of volunteers every year and partnering with numerous civic, academic and governmental organizations, our grassroots events help support inner-city neighborhoods. ASI's in-school, after-school, in-person and online workshops lay the framework for the arts to nourish the character and development of youth, open up a new world of social engagement and reinforce the school curriculum.

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